



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY
2161 UNIONVILLE-DEASON ROAD
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE 37020
1-800-747-8868

TO: Tennessee Fire Service

DATE: November 4, 2005

SUBJECT: Update on TFACA's Fire Service Training Program

The Fire Service Program of the Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy (TFACA) is on track for another great year of training. Since the start of the new fiscal year in July, Fire Service Programs has generated more student contact hours than the same time period last year. We are proud of the increased training that TFACA has been able to deliver this year and look forward to continue to help meet your fire department's or emergency service organization's training needs.

In September the nation's fire and emergency services responded to the natural disaster created by Hurricane Katrina. Tennessee was one of many states that participated in providing the necessary resources. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) designated the TFACA to request volunteers from the state's fire and rescue services. The TFACA pulled together these volunteers for strike teams for possible deployment missions. These teams were to aid and assist in the ongoing emergency rescue and support efforts in the gulf coast states affected as the result of Hurricane Katrina. Thank you for all of those who volunteered from Tennessee's Fire Departments and Rescue Squads. Your response was excellent and we appreciate your willingness to assist.

The TFACA is proud to announce that the American Council on Education (ACE) has completed an authorized instructional site review of the Academy and has approved selected courses for recommendation of college credit and/or continuing education units. This will provide additional opportunities for the Academy's students to utilize state training courses toward the pursuit of educational degrees or continuing education credits.

The Tennessee Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD is scheduled for November 18 - 20, 2005. Congratulations to the 224 applicants that were accepted into this year's program. This is an excellent educational opportunity for the participants and will provide them with new fire service knowledge and skills to share with their area fire departments when they return.

Enclosed with this letter you will find information on the Second Annual Tennessee Firemen's Association Weekend at the TFACA to be held January 28 & 29, 2006. This unique educational venue provides a great training opportunity for the state's fire service through rotating classes incorporating a variety of practical fire and rescue exercises. In addition the Tennessee Firemen's Association has graciously provided free tuition to the first 100 students who register for these classes. Registration for this program will be handled through TFACA's normal registration process.

The second annual Tennessee Ultimate Fire Fighter (TUFF) Challenge was held at the Academy on September 24, 2005 in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Chiefs' Association and the Tennessee Firemen's Association. This competition was designed to emphasize the importance of technical fire service skills and capabilities, as well as the camaraderie and spirited competition of the fire service. Twenty-eight teams and twenty-eight individual competitors from across the state competed in the timed skills course. The TUFF Challenge event proved to be a great competition and educational event for the competitors and their families. Congratulations to the winners and all the competitors. I wish to express my gratitude to the TUFF Challenge Committee for their excellent work in developing and coordinating this fire service event. Also thanks to all the vendors and volunteers who helped make this competition a reality. The proceeds of the TUFF Challenge will go to the funding of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial for Tennessee. We look forward to having your fire department compete in next year's event which is scheduled for September 30, 2006.

Regarding the Tennessee Fallen Firefighter Memorial, a dedication ceremony was held on the future site of the memorial located at TFACA on October 28, 2005 at 1:00 PM. This memorial will be a lasting tribute to Tennessee Firefighters that have fallen in the line of duty, as well as a place of honor and remembrance for all those who have served our state's citizens. Please continue to support this important project.

We appreciate the support of the Tennessee Firemen's Association, Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, the other state fire and codes organizations, and most importantly you, the fire service of the State of Tennessee. We look forward to continuing working together to improve the fire service of Tennessee through education and training. If the Fire Program's staff or I can be of assistance, please contact us at 800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111. Or for more information regarding the TFACA, go to our website at www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/tfaca.

Sincerely,

David E. Hedrick
Director Fire Service Programs

Enclosure